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Celebrate the Jubilee

of

Our Foreign Mission,

Trying Conditions Notwithstanding!

NOV 1 1920

Board of Foreign Missions
Lutheran Synod of Missouri
RICH. KRETZSCHMAR, Pres.
2243 S. Jefferson Av. St. Louis, Mo.

Celebrate the Jubilee of Our Foreign Mission, Trying Conditions Notwithstanding!

October 14, 1894, the first two missionaries of our Mission in East India received their commission at a solemn service, held at St. Charles, Mo., during a meeting of the Western District of our Synod. All our pastors and congregations are requested to take note of this year's jubilee of our Foreign Missions in some manner according to their own discretion. This suggestion is offered despite the fact that our East India Mission has suffered more in consequence of the war than any other mission of our Synod, and conditions may still be viewed as distressing.

There is, indeed, a large field for us in East India, where the vast majority of about three hundred million inhabitants are still living in spiritual darkness, without any knowledge of their Savior. Our mission was started among the Tamil-speaking population, in the Salem District, in the city of Krishnagiri, — Ambur, Vaniyambadi, and Bargur later on being added as main stations, and the work extending to eighteen substations.

In the year 1907 our East India missionaries were asked to take up the work in Travancore, where we now have thirty-eight stations, which are grouped about the two large cities Nagercoil and Trivandrum. The faithful work of our missionaries was crowned with success in spite of all the great difficulties which had to be overcome. Thousands of heathen have learned to know the name of Jesus. At the end of 1918 the missionaries compiled the following statistics: 3,435 souls, 1,586 baptized, 1,756 catechumens, 259 communicant members, 67 schools with 2,789 pupils (2,167 boys and 622 girls, of whom 471 are baptized). During the last year 49 heathen were received into membership by Holy Baptism, which number has already been considerably exceeded this year according to reports of our missionaries.

Twenty missionaries have so far been engaged in the work on our East India mission-field. Three of these were called to their eternal rest — the missionaries Näther, Kellerbauer, and Ludwig. Four had to leave India on account of sickness. Two who were on furlough could not return to that country on account of the war. Three missionaries, who happened to be German subjects, were interned and repatriated. One missionary is in America and has permission of the British authorities to return to East India. Two missionaries left India on furlough last spring because of sickness in their family. Since 1915 all our efforts towards obtaining permission from the British Government to send new missionaries to East India

proved futile. Instead of the fifteen missionaries we had there before the war, only five of them are now in the field. The harvest truly is great, but the laborers, alas, how few!

Yet the Lord has accomplished great things, even though the number of His servants has dwindled down to a few. The great work has been carried on, and has even been extended to new places. Our missionaries are working overtime to train an efficient force of native mission-workers at our three institutes — Ambur, Nagercoil, and Trivandrum. Under the supervision of the missionaries there are now employed in our East India mission-field 2 native evangelists, 28 catechists, 64 men and 7 women native Christian teachers.

An "S. O. S." call was sent for three missionaries to our Australian brethren. It seems, according to latest reports, that this call is not to be in vain, but that probably two missionaries from Australia will be sent to India. Still, the question is a burden on our mind, What is to become of the blessed work of our East India Mission if we shall not be able to reinforce the depleted ranks of our missionaries sufficiently in the near future? We urge all fellow-Christians to realize with us the seriousness of this crisis, and while at the jubilee we are offering thanks to God for His gracious help and manifold blessings, let us not neglect to entreat Him most earnestly in the name of Jesus to send forth more laborers into the field which is now white for the harvest. And since there are indications that new missionaries may now be sent out, and our Board was encouraged by a letter of the British Embassy at Washington to submit new applications, if possible, at the present time, however, only for such missionaries whose parents are native Americans, we hope to God that we shall be able to find a sufficient number of young pastors who are in a position to consider such a call, and who in love to Christ and with true compassion toward the perishing heathen would be found willing to enter the blessed mission-work in India. Brethren, try to find prospective candidates whose names you could suggest. It would be highly appreciated, and the service rendered may be inestimable. Young brother in the ministry, as you are reading this, is the voice of the Lord, perhaps, now coming to you, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Will you, by the grace of God, be encouraged to answer, "Here am I, send me!"? Is. 6, 8.

Our medical mission in India has had but a very small beginning. Only one nurse, Miss Lulu Ellerman, now on furlough in this country, has been engaged in this work, supported by ladies' missionary societies. She has, however, rendered valuable services to our missionaries and their families in case of sickness, and last year ministered to 2,810 native patients, not only giving them relief in bodily ailments, but by word and printed matter — tracts — also pointing them to the great Physician of the soul. We are looking

for more Lutheran nurses for our medical mission, but more eagerly still for male or female Lutheran doctors to take charge of a missionary dispensary or hospital. Can you assist us in finding suitable candidates for such a position?

Finally, has our foreign mission-work received the financial support it should have had? We acknowledge with gratitude to God and to our Christians that the funds most urgently needed were supplied, though at times only after the mission had passed through financial straits, and after the Board had sent out urgent appeals. Now we are again confronted by a large deficit of over $3,000 in the treasury for our East India mission and by a still larger deficit in the treasury for our new foreign mission in China, among the most numerous pagan nation of the world, where this year three new missionaries will be added to the staff, which will give us eight men in that field. Can we celebrate a jubilee while we are facing such a financial crisis? Indeed we can, provided it will be a real jubilee, consisting not only in words and songs, but also in thank-offerings of our hands, in liberal contributions for the missions among those people who so far have hardly had any opportunity to hear the sweet message of their salvation, through which we have been blessed so bountifully since the days of our childhood. Such a jubilee would at once give us a surplus in the place of the present deficit. And then let us all in future do our part for this most worthy cause in order that we may never again have occasion to complain about a lack of funds for the promulgation of the full, free Gospel among the heathen, and for the support of our good missionaries, who, together with their families, are sacrificing so much in going to India and China in our name and doing our work. May the Lord inspire us with new zeal for this holy cause, and may He bless and prosper our Foreign Missions!

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

RICH. KRETZSCHMAR, *President.*

P. S. May we be permitted to offer a suggestion to pastors and teachers, — that on October 14 (on the day or Sunday preceding or following) they will inform their school, Sunday-school, and catechetical class about this jubilee of our Foreign Missions, telling them about the blessed work of bringing salvation to the heathen, and mentioning some of the distressing conditions by which this good work is at present confronted, in order that our young Christians may be familiarized with our — nay, *their own* Foreign Missions, and may remember them in their prayers and with their gifts of love, and perhaps many a Lutheran boy may be inspired to become a missionary himself.